

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 283960  
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:SFROMOWITZ/LVA  
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-----126655 290348Z /72

R 282328Z NOV 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

S E C R E T STATE 283960

FOR WORTZEL FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

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1. OVERFLIGHT ISSUE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH WORKING LEVELS OF DOD THE IDEA OF SENDING A US TEAM TO BELGRADE TO TRY TO WORK OUT THE WIDE DISCREPANCY (OR BETTER STILL, CONTRADICTION) BETWEEN THE YUGOSLAVS' CATEGORICAL ASSERTION THAT OVERFLIGHTS OCCURRED AND NAVY'S EQUALLY STRONG REBUTTAL THAT NO SUCH VIOLATIONS OCCURRED. I REALIZE THAT THE YUGOSLAVS MAY NOT BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SUCH A PROPOSAL, WHICH IMPLIES DOUBT AS TO THEIR ALLEGATIONS, BUT WE ARE STRUGGLING WITH THE PLAN OF HOW TO GO BACK TO THE YUGOSLAVS WITH WHAT APPEARS WILL BE A FIRM EUCOM POSITION THAT ALL THE EVIDENCE CONFIRMS NO OVERFLIGHTS. PERHAPS AN OFFER TO DISCUSS BOTH SIDES' INFORMATION, WITHOUT ANY IMPLICATION THAT WE REJECT THE YUGOSLAV ALLEGATION, WILL ELICIT YUGOSLAV AGREEMENT. IN FAVOR OF SUCH AN APPROACH IS THE ARGUMENT

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THAT WE HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO AVOID ACTIONS, SUCH AS ACCIDENTAL OVERFLIGHTS, WHICH COULD DAMAGE OUR RELATIONS. WE WILL PROBABLY NEED HIGH-LEVEL APPROVAL FOR SUCH AN IDEA. IF YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON IT, PLEASE DON'T REFER TO THIS MESSAGE WHICH IS ONLY SEEN IN EUR/EE.

2. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, USIA DIRECTOR REINHARDT

HAS DECIDED TO ALLOW VOA TO BROADCAST THE MIHAJLOV INTERVIEW WITH THE VOA CORRESPONDENT. THE ONLY RESTRICTION IS THAT THE INTERVIEW WILL NOT BE CARRIED ON THE SERBO-CROATIAN LANGUAGE BROADCASTS. (PRESUMABLY SLOVENE LANGUAGE SERVICE WILL ALSO NOT RPT NOT CARRY THE INTERVIEW ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT EXPLICITLY STATED.) IN HIS TALKS WITH REINHARDT, DEPUTY SECRETARY BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION THE VARIOUS POINTS MADE IN EMBASSY'S CABLES, INCLUDING THE ONE ABOUT HOW VOA CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD OPERATE IN YUGOSLAVIA. THIS MATTER HAS ALSO RESULTED IN A DECISION TO LAUNCH A GENERAL STUDY OF THE ROLE OF VOA CORRESPONDENTS. THIS INFO IS BEING SENT TO YOU IN THIS CHANNEL IN DEFERENCE TO USIA SENSITIVITIES AT THIS TIME. PLEASE PASS PARA 2 TO LARRY ONLY. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
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